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cost as to promise for it an extensive circulation. Apart from its value as the key of large departments of Eastern history, the Koran bears certain important relations to the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, which demand and reward the careful study of the theologian and the Biblical scholar.

27. — *The Life and Letters of Washington Irving*. By his Nephew, PIERRE M. IRVING. Volume I. New York: G. P. Putnam. 1862. 16mo. pp. 463.

WE have read this volume with profound interest, but we are sorry that it has appeared. We cannot admit the propriety of giving to the public so many of the letters and personal memoranda which the writer could never have designed for the press. To be sure, Mr. Irving committed these papers to his nephew, as the nephew writes, "with the understanding that I was to construct a biography from them, should it be my fate to survive him." But instead of the "construction," we have what we certainly have read with much greater avidity, a very considerable proportion of the materials themselves. We doubt whether the publication does justice to Irving's early character. There must have been in one whose old age had so much of majesty and beauty a higher style and stronger staple of manhood than this volume attributes to the first half of his life. This may have been, and yet the serious and earnest portion of his being may have left no record, while the more festive aspects of his life and character were precisely those that would be preserved in his correspondence and in that of his friends. We forbear further comment till the completion of the work.

28. — *A Book about Doctors*. By J. CORDY JEAFFRESON, Author of "Novels and Novelists," "Crewe Rise," etc., etc. Reprinted from the English Edition. New York: Rudd and Carlton. 1861. 12mo. pp. 490.

THIS is a collection of anecdotes about doctors, arranged with little method, many of them amusing, some of them possessed of biographical and historical interest. It is written with considerable skill and with a high relish, and is on the whole one of the most pleasant books that have fallen into our hands since the coming on of the weary and anxious days that have restricted the issues of the press in the same proportion in which they have disturbed the ordinary course of commerce and industry.